

## **Senior Bible Fellowship – Bible Study Guide**

### **Zechariah 7-8: Jehovah's Chastising Rebuke and Comforting Promises**

#### **Introduction**

1. These chapters begin the second main part of the prophecy of Zechariah (chaps.7-14). Though there is plenty of content here, chaps.7,8 belong together. They reveal and express Jehovah's chastising rebuke of His people on the one (negative) hand, and His comforting promises on the other (positive) hand.
2. Read Rev. R. Hanko's comments on this introductory section and explain how it parallels the first half of this prophecy (*CZR*, pp.255-56).

#### **Chapter 7 – Jehovah's Chastising Rebuke**

1. What was the historical situation that led the people to establish four new fasts while they were in Babylon?
  
2. Describe the place of fasting in the OT believer's life. Was there a fast the Lord appointed for them? What kind of fasting is pleasing to Him? Does it have a place in the NT believer's life?
  
3. What prompted the question of these men to the priests and prophets? Is it wrong in itself? What does it reveal about the spiritual state of the people?
  
4. Now consider the Lord's rebuke (vv.4-14).
  - a. What sin does the Lord pinpoint here? How had He shown the people this in the past? How does this apply to all of our worship? Find other Bible passages that point to the same truth.
  
  - b. To what does the Lord call His people positively in vv.8-10? How do these things relate to our worship of God? Find other Scriptures that teach the same thing.
  
  - c. What made the sin of the people so serious in the face of this clear divine instruction? Was the Lord right to punish them so severely? Now explain how this judgment of God was chastisement (loving discipline).

## **Chapter 8 – Jehovah’s Comforting Promises**

1. Explain the relation between chap.7 and chap.8. That is, how do God’s rebukes and judgments relate to His promises? Are the blessings promised in chap.8 for everyone in the church? How does God’s sovereign grace and mercy stand out in this section? In that connection, explain Jehovah’s intense jealousy for His people (v.2).
2. Rev. R. Hanks points out that there are 10 promises of blessing in this chapter. List all of them and then provide a brief description of each one. What’s the significance of the #10 in Scripture again?
3. How did these promises apply to OT Israel? How about to us, God’s NT Israel?
4. Finally, review this entire section and summarize how it points us to Christ and the central message of this prophecy.